

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 COA-02 INT-08 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 033471

R 232150Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 635

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL CURACAO

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

UNCLAS CARACAS 6357

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR CO VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PASTRANA'S VISIT AND THE COLOMBIA/  
VENEZUELA BORDER DISPUTE

1. CONTRARY TO INDICATIONS OF SOME HEADLINES, AGREEMENT ON GULF OF VENEZUELA CONTINENTAL SHELF LIMITS HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED SO FAR DURING PASTRANA VISIT TO VENEZUELA. WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT BORDER DISPUTE IS AT TOP OF AGENDA IN TALKS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS, THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF SURPRISE BREAKTHROUGH IN NEAR FUTURE. CALDERA TOLD COLOMBIAN JOURNALISTS JULY 22 "PRESIDENT PASTRANA AND I WILL REACH A SOLUTION IN THE COLOMBIA/VENEZUELA DISAGREEMENT (DIFERENDO) TO SET MARINE AND SUBMARINE AREAS IN THE GULF OF VENEZUELA". HE ALSO DENIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE FROZEN DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS IN BOTH COUNTRIES, SAYING PASTRANA AGREES THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE. BUT WHEN ASKED WHEN AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED, CALDERA SAID FIXING A DATE WOULD "CREATE A COLLECTIVE PSYCHOSIS". HE ALSO FIRMLY REJECTED ONCE AGAIN ANY RECOURSE TO A THIRD PARTY.

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2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT IS UNPRECEDENTEDLY HEAVY AND HIGHLY

FAVORABLE TO VISITING PRESIDENT. PASTRANA'S PRESENCE HAS  
CREATED WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT TWO CHIEFS OF STATE CAN AT THEIR  
LEVEL RESOLVE BORDER DEADLOCK AND OTHER DISPUTES. QUESTIONS ON THIS  
SUBJECT WILL DOMINATE NEWS. HOWEVER, FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS  
IT APPEARS ECONOMIC RELATIONS ARE AS MUCH ON THE TWO  
LEADERS' MINDS AS ANYTHING ELSE. PASTRANA IN PARTICULAR HAS  
MADE SOME ELOQUENT REMARKS ALONG THIS LINE. ESPECIALLY  
POINTED WAS HIS JULY 22 STATEMENT AFTER RECEIVING DECORATION  
FROM CALDERA: "IF ONE OF OUR ECONOMIES RAPIDLY OUTDISTANCES  
THE OTHER IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CONTAIN MOVEMENTS  
OVER OUR FRONTIERS OF PEOPLE WHO BASICALLY FORM PART OF  
A COMMON RACE, SPEAK AN IDENTICAL LANGUAGE AND ARE  
NOURISHED BY A SIMILAR CULTURE."

3. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF VISIT WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.  
MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, WATER BOUNDARIES, BORDER CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 23 JUL 1973  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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